

## Breaking Bread; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

### I. The Beginning

- A. Paul was correcting those who had abused the memorial of Jesus and turned it into a drunken and divided meal of the have's and have not's
- B. Paul was not with the Apostles at the Lord's Supper, but received his information by revelation from the Christ
- C. This revelation is written down for us in numerous places in Scripture
- D. here is a chronological order of some of these events leading up to, and after, the Supper
  1. John 13:1–5; 1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.
  2. Mark 14:17–21; 17 And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. 18 And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." 19 They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" 20 He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. 21 For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."
  3. Matthew 26:26–29; 26 Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." 27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."
- E. In Luke 22:15 Jesus says, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer"
- F. In John 13-17 we see why; these chapters are full of the conversations Jesus has with His Apostles before, during, and after the supper

### II. The Bread

- A. This memorial is wrapped around two things, Jesus' body and blood
- B. Luke 22:19; And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
- C. Jesus' body was given for us
  1. Sacrifices under the mosaic law had to be without spot or blemish (free from disease or defect)
  2. Jesus, as God's Son, provided himself as our sacrifice (free from sin, 2 Corinthians 5:21)
  3. A study of the sacrifices under the Mosaic Law would show us that Jesus met the requirements for every sacrifice; one sacrifice for all
  4. Hebrews 10:11–18; 11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ

had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. 15 And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, 16 “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,” 17 then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” 18 Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

5. While we reflect on the the crucifixion and what Jesus went through, we ought to also reflect on the sacrifice it represents for us
6. The only way that God could forgive our sins was to provide an acceptable sacrifice (bulls and goats were not acceptable)

D. The bread of the passover is the body of Christ

### III. The Cup

A. Matthew 26:27–29; 27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

B. “Poured out” is an image of a drink offering

C. The blood of the covenant

1. Genesis 15:1-21
2. Génesis 15:1-21
3. God’s covenant with Abraham required blood
4. God’s covenant with us requires blood
5. And the blood of bulls and goats is not an acceptable offering
6. Hebrews 10:3–4; 3 But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.
7. Hebrews 9:11–12; 11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) 12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.
8. Blood brothers
9. Jesus spilling His blood for us means something! Eternal life!

D. The cup is His blood which is our covenant, our promise of eternal life

### IV. Breaking Bread

A. The bread is His body

B. The cup is His blood

C. Every time we take of the Lord’s Supper we celebrate, we commemorate Jesus’ death, His sacrifice (which means our salvation)